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PTO/SB/30 (01-03)

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number	08/964,180
Filing Date	November 4, 1997
First Named Inventor	Masaki Higurashi
Art Unit	2612
Examiner Name	Luong Trung Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	970668D/LH

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114a. ☒ Previously submittedi. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on June 12, 2003
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on _____iii. ☐ Other _____b. ☐ Enclosedi. ☐ Amendment/Replyii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)iv. ☐ Other _____**2. Miscellaneous**a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)b. ☐ Other _____**3. Fees**The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, toa. ☒ Deposit Account No. 06-1378i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)iii. ☐ Other _____b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 750.00 enclosedc. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.****SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Robert F. Michal	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	35,614
Signature	<i>Robert F. Michal</i>	Date	July 25, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSIONExpress Mailing Label No.: EV 339 432 314 US
Date of Deposit: July 25, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service, with sufficient postage, under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Marilyn Stults
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